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CHARBONNEAU & ANDREWS

159 Main Street, Norwich, Conn.

WESTERY

The public utilities commission of Rhode Island received Saturday the new electric light and power rates of the Westery Light and Power company, the Wickford Light and Power company. At the same time new gas rate schedules were filed by the Westery Light and Power company and the Wickford Gas and Electric company. All these are subsidiaries of the Narragansett Electric Lighting company of Providence.

Officials of the Narragansett company said that the rate changes were designed primarily to make electric rate charges by the corporation's subsidiaries conform more closely to those of Providence.

For the most part, it was declared, the changes are in the form of charge rather than in the amount. Increases in revenue, it was stated, are expected from the new gas rates in Westery and Wickford and there will be some increase in revenue from the electric rates in Westery. No change in revenue from the new schedules of the Wickford and Narragansett Pier companies is looked for.

The new rates are to become effective January 1, and all schedules for electric rates contain a coal clause, giving the companies the right automatically to lower and raise rates at stated periods, dependent upon the cost of coal.

In the case of the gas rates, a similar clause makes it possible to change the gas cost to consumers with the changing cost of coal and oil.

Gas customers of the Westery and Bristol county companies, under the new rate plan, will be asked to pay a service charge of 30 cents a month, while the gas rate is also altered.

Electricity customers of the Westery, Wickford and Narragansett Pier companies will be put on a meter system. This will mean for some users a decrease in rates and for others an increase, officials said.

The coal price to govern the upward and downward movement of electricity rates, it was stated, will be the price paid for coal by the Narragansett company, which generates the current distributed by its three subsidiaries.

The coal and oil price to govern the gas cost movement in the case of the Bristol County Gas and Electric company will be the price to the Providence Gas company, which furnishes the gas this company distributes. In the case of the Westery company, it will be the price to that company direct, as it makes its gas.

The contest over the will of Mrs. Eliza Ann Stratton, formerly of East Greenwich, and Patrick, ended Friday before Judge George T. Brown in the superior court, when the jury, after listening to formal proof of the will returned a verdict in favor of the instrument by direction of the judge.

The contest was by Eliza C. Knight and other heirs who sought to have the will set aside on the ground that Rev. executor, John W. Wood, had exercised undue influence over the testatrix in getting her to make the will. Rev. Mr. Wood was made trustee of the bulk of the Stratton's property with the provision that it should be used for charitable purposes in his discretion.

The estate comprises some personal property and real estate in Pawtucket, valued at approximately \$7500. The contest was heard once before by a jury and a verdict rendered setting the will aside. Judge Doran who presided at the trial, the executor's motion for a new trial on the ground that the verdict was not justified by the evidence. When the case was called for trial Friday the contesting heirs offered no testimony in opposition to the normal proof of the will and it was probated without protest.

A lively contest is on for the speakership of the Rhode Island house of representatives, between the backers of Richard W. Jennings and Arthur P. Summer, with the former as the so-called logical candidate as he was deputy speaker and majority leader at the last session of the general assembly.

The democrats are lining up for the election of a minority leader, and the two principal candidates at this time are William S. Flynn and John L. Dineen. The selections will be made in party caucus, the night before the opening of the legislature of 1919, next month.

Theatrical interests in Rhode Island have protested against a 50 per cent. tax on admission to entertainments at the Rhode Island theatre, which is now being passed in the house of representatives. Senator Colt is advised that the senate committee on finance has decided to eliminate this provision which would have the effect of leaving the war tax on admissions at 10 per cent, the rate provided for by existing law.

Under an interlocutory decree of divorce which Supreme Court Judge Joseph L. Allen granted on Saturday to Mrs. F. S. Fairbanks, formerly of Watch Hill, from her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, the moving picture actress, she obtained absolute custody of the son, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., who is eight years old and is now with his mother in New Rochelle. The papers in the case were filed by counsel for Fairbanks, the Westchester county clerk's office, and the decree is operative immediately.

Fairbanks was served with the complaint Oct. 22 last at Sherby's. The screen star filed an answer denying all the allegations of his wife, but when the trial came up before Justice Young in his chambers at New Rochelle, the defendant was not present nor was he represented by counsel.

Mrs. Fairbanks is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sully, and married Mr. Fairbanks at Watch Hill, July 7, 1907. In her petition for divorce, Mrs. Fairbanks stated that her husband made more than \$10,000 a week in the various moving picture enterprises.

The decree as signed by Justice Young does not fix any alimony. It is understood that Fairbanks has made liberal allowance to his wife and son. Although names of co-respondents are not mentioned in the testimony, the defendant is accused of misconduct on Jan. 2, 1915, and Jan. 15, 1915.

The testimony against Fairbanks was given by two of his professional associates, William Clifton Crawford, an actor of Manhattan, testified that Jan. 2, 1915, he met Fairbanks at the Lambs club, and that after the Lambs Gamble, the defendant invited him to go along with him to attend a party of "beating the game." He said that he accompanied Fairbanks to a house on Thirty-third street. John Emerson, who is in the moving picture business, testified to a "confession" that Fairbanks made to him, that they were at Hollywood, California, concerning a "certain escape of his."

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